proposal of Government for privatisation of all Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered any steps to be taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the main points of the strategy adopted; and

(d) by when Government's decision on proposal of privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings is likely to be finally taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) At present, there is no proposal before the Government for privatisation of all the public sector undertakings, nor has the ministry received any communication from AITUC opposing the so-called proposal.

Incentive package for small sector in Punjab

198. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a package of incentives for the Small Sector in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Expert Committee on small Enterprises under the Chairmanship of Dr. Abid Hussain has recently submitted its report. As a follow up on the recommendations of the Committee, several steps including a package of measures for improving the competitiveness of small sector in the country are being taken. These would equally be applicable to the small units in the State of Punjab also. Government have already decided to raise the investment limit from Rs. 60/75 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs for a SSI unit and from Rs. 5 lacks to Rs. 25 lakhs for a tiny unit, as recommended by the Expert Committee.

Operation of Value-added electronics information service

199. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a project from Wire News Service Bloomberg LPUSA for a 100% Indian subsidiary to operate value-added electronics information services and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether views of the Ministry of information and Broadcasting were obtained at the time of according approval to the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government have given permission to M/s. Bloomberg LP, USA only for setting up a 100% owned subsidiary to operate Electronic Information Services such as Data Services, Audio Text Services, Video Text Services but excluding value added services as defined under the announced policy of Deptt. of Telecommunication. The Admn. Ministry, *i.e.* Department of Telecommunication were consulted before grant of the aforesaid approval.

Reluctance of foreign investors

200. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors are reluctant to invest in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?